

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03978 120955Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W

-----056708 121330Z /45

R 120900Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8526

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SN

SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LIST OF IMPRISONED PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: STATE 213474

1. ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE TWO SINGAPOREANS INCLUDED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED LIST OF IMPRISONED PARLIAMENTARIANS.

2. FOR REFERENCE, CHIA THYE POH WAS FORMER STUDENT RADICAL; FOR SEVERAL YEARS VICE CHAIRMAN OF NANYANG UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION. AFTER GRADUATION HE REMAINED NOMINALLY ASSOCIATED WITH NANYANG BUT APPARENTLY DEVOTED FULL TIME TO BARISAN SOCIALIS PARTY WORK. ELECTED TO SINGAPORE PARLIAMENT IN 1963, HE WAS ALSO MALAYSIAN FEDERAL MP IN 1963-65. HE WAS ONE OF LEADERS IN DIVERTING BARISAN SOCIALIS PARTY TOWARD RADICAL LINE. BANNED FROM ENTRY INTO MALAYSIA IN MAY 1966, HE WAS DETAINED BY GOS IN OCTOBER 1966 UNDER INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.

3. LEE TSE TONG, BORN IN CHINA, WAS SECRETARY OF COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED SINGAPORE BUS WORKERS UNION IN
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1050'S AND EARLY 1960'S. HE WAS ELECTED TO SINGAPORE PARLIAMENT IN 1963 AND DETAINED BY GOS ABOUT A MONTH LATER. AS WITH MANY CHINA-BORN RADICALS HIS CITIZENSHIP WAS REVOKED. WHILE UNDER DETENTION, HE WAS SERVED WITH A BANISHMENT ORDER IN 1966 BUT REFUSED TO LEAVE SINGAPORE. HE HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION SINCE THAT TIME UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE BANISHMENT ACT. (THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT

ROMANIZATIONS OF LEE'S NAME. USE OF THIS PARTICULAR ONE BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SUGGESTS THAT ITS INFORMATION MAY HAVE COME FROM DUTCH LABOR PARTY REPORT.)

4. IN GOS VIEW, BOTH MEN ARE HARD CORE RADICALS LINKED TO MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY. SEE LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL BE RELEASED IN NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH EITHER MIGHT BE FREED (AS GOS HAS SAID IT WOULD DO IN CASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES) IF HE WERE PREPARED TO RECANT AND TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL ENDS. LEE TSE TONG PRESUMABLY COULD ALSO GET OUT OF SINGAPORE DETENTION BY AGREEING TO DEPORTATION AND PERMANENT BANISHMENT FROM THE COUNTRY. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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